

# AMERICA SPEAKS

THIS week, for the second time during the world war, the great republic of the New World is choosing its chief ruler by the method of popular election. It is a fact of world importance for democracy, its life and liberty, that in the midst of vast wartime operations the American people have used their democratic privileges in full responsibility. Just as the British Parliament has continued to meet in free and open assembly, so the American people have demonstrated to the world the vigour, the liveliness, and the paramount place in the world's life of the democratic way.

## Democratic Rule Again

The war has elevated the democratic way among the nations. It has brought about a rebaptism of faith in the power of the ordinary man, his wisdom and understanding. For twenty years in Europe democracy has been suspected and derided. Dictators have strutted the stage in a facile outward display of power. Their bombast succeeded for a time, and the common man had to subjugate his hopes and ambitions to the overlordship of the all-powerful Leader. That phase is now passing in Europe. Italy and France are witnessing a resurgence of democratic government. Faith in the common people is again asserting itself as the clouds of war roll by. It is that faith which Americans, by going to the polls, have helped to stimulate. The world has saluted the spectacle of a great people exercising its rights and duties while at the same time not hesitating to continue its immense war against tyranny across the world.

THIS is a day of proud belief in the common man and his ability to conduct the life and government of his country. The polling booths of America have once again declared to free men everywhere that power lies with the people; that they are the guardians as well as the originators of the power which ultimately in human affairs directs and controls the destinies of men. The bludgeonings of dictators compel men to forget that they are the final sovereigns. Even in our own land, where political liberty and the power of the people are fully recognised, the absence of the regular methods of expressing our views may tend to lead us to forget our responsibilities. The sight of a great people across the Atlantic going to the polls is a reminder of the peerless place of the common man in the affairs of the world. It is a lesson all peoples may well learn and fully comprehend.

## The Message From Across the Seas

America, too, speaks across the seas and continents of the capacity of democracy to defend what it has, to rebuild what has been destroyed, and to build new things. The long and deep wastages of warfare do not spell the end of our civilisation. While the people are in power there is hope of a new world. It is when the life of a people is so controlled and destroyed that power passes from their hands that hope of new beginnings dies away. By their assertion of power the American people have declared to all men that life, freedom, and hope cannot die. These are the inborn, intimate beliefs of the common man which must flourish unfettered and free.

Their famous President, Woodrow Wilson, once spoke words to the American people

which are true for all free men today: "The nation has been deeply stirred by a solemn passion, stirred by the knowledge of wrong, of ideals lost, of government too often debauched and made an instrument of evil. The feelings with which we face this new age of right and opportunity sweep across our heartstrings like some air out of God's own presence where justice and mercy are reconciled and the judge and the brother are one. We know our task to be no mere task of politics, but a task which shall search us through and through, whether we are able to understand our time and the need of our people, whether we be indeed their spokesmen and interpreters, whether we have the pure heart to comprehend and the rectified will to choose our high course of action."

THE voting of a nation of 140 millions is no mere political machine at work. It is the spectacle of a nation assuming for itself the responsibilities of government. Never before in history has democracy displayed itself on such a gigantic scale as in America. Greece worked out her classic democracies in small city states. America is attempting to do it in a vast continent among men and women of all the diverse races upon earth. Many of them come from countries where the right to vote and the power of the people are not recognised. They have to learn about the working of democracy, its failings, its triumphs, its recognition of the common man. They learn by doing, in the true democratic manner, discovering the place of faith in principle, dedication to duty, and the honour of the pledged word. These things are the foundations of free elections anywhere in the world, the strategy by which democracy lives and goes on adding nations to its allegiance.

## Learning by Doing

We have, in our own country, agreed to suspend for the time being certain of our democratic rights and privileges, of which a general election is one. We have surrendered some of our liberties to the executive power knowing that the risk we thereby take will not be abused. These rights and privileges may before very long be again resumed, and this age-old democracy begin again to turn the wheels of the political machinery throughout the country. Many thousands of voters of Britain are unfamiliar with that machine and will need education in the principles which govern it. That alone must be an immense democratic undertaking calling for all the risks and errors of "learning by doing."

AMERICA, speaking now by voting, reminds us that the attempt must be made to train in our own land a new and vigorous race of active democrats who will not be afraid to take unpopular views, defend the rights of minorities, and exalt the place of the common man. We may be on the eve of that crusade, one which will help to mould the future of British democracy for many years to come. The young men and women in the forces will come home to a country asking for a fresh flow of lively, intelligent citizens who know something of the faith which makes them a democracy as well as the faith which makes them British. In that task of education all men of good will must join so that the torch of democracy on both sides of the Atlantic may long be alight, throwing its rays of hope into all the corners of the world.

CHILDREN'S  
NEWSPAPER  
EVERY TUESDAY 3d  
POSTAGE  
Inland 1d  
Abroad 1d  
No 1338  
FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



## The Snow Queen

The first production of the Children's Theatre, The Snow Queen, is now making a tour of the provinces. The title part is being played by Miss Suria Magito of the drama school at Toynbee Hall, seen here being prepared for the stage.

## THE POET'S CAT

IT is nearly 50 years since Robert Louis Stevenson died, so there cannot now be many people who knew him well. The writer met one not long ago. "When the poet and his wife left for the South Seas, never to return, he left his cat with us," said this lady. "Not the famous Ginger?" said our correspondent. "Yes, indeed, it was Ginger," was the reply; "a tremendous cat he was, a great character; he lived with us for years—till he died, in fact." Ginger is the cat that comes in the Stevenson correspondence. Writing to a friend of their desire to find a tenant of the house they were about to quit, Mrs Stevenson said, "The couple must love cats tenderly, and take Ginger to their bosoms—also Agnes, as housekeeper and attendant on the cat." Our friends did not take the house, for they had their own, but they did take Ginger.

## Lovely Old-World Veere

WITH the British and Canadians masters of the road and railway to Holland through South Beveland, the only way of escape for the Germans on Walcheren lay by water from the ancient port of Veere.

Veere has kept its handsome 15th-century town hall of which the gable is filled with fine sculpture, and there are delightful houses of the 16th and 17th centuries in its streets.

Albrecht Dürer, one of the greatest of German artists, was

in Veere 420 years ago, when he made his tour of the Low Countries which he recorded faithfully in the curious Diary we still may read. He noted that in those days ships of all nationalities cast anchor there, and he was concerned that this city, with so many others in the Lowlands, should be so hard pressed in the fight for religious freedom. Veere lost its position in world trade in later times, but never lost its love of freedom and its quiet beauty.



## WEARING DOWN THE ENEMY'S SEA-POWER

THE mounting sea-power of Britain and America and their domination in the air have been vividly and dramatically revealed in the waters of both Europe and Asia.

Germany's great battleship the Tirpitz has again been put out of action and the Japanese Navy has received a shattering blow.

Driven south by the Russian advance into northern Norway, the Tirpitz had no sooner taken up fresh moorings off Haakoy Island near Tromsø when R.A.F. Lancasters, flying from bases in Britain 1200 miles away, attacked her with 12,000 lb bombs. One of these bombs hit the battleship in spite of the intense fire from her A.A. guns and those of a Flak ship. With this disaster and her bases on the Atlantic fast falling to the Allies, Germany has little left to her of sea-power.

Any hopes she may have entertained of redress by Japan have been shattered by the series of defeats the American Third and Seventh Fleets inflicted on the Japanese in the Battle of the Philippine Seas. Here again aeroplanes, in this case flown from carriers, proved the decisive factor in a victory which cost the enemy 58 ships sunk or damaged, against the loss of six American warships.

The Japanese fleets approached the Philippines from the south and the north. Submarine scouts attacked the southern force, sank two heavy cruisers and damaged a third. Next day, October 23, carrier searchers sighted two Japanese forces moving eastward, one of five battleships, eight cruisers, and 13 destroyers, in the Subuyan Sea, the other of two battleships, four cruisers, and eight destroyers, in the Sulu Sea.

Fighters, torpedo-planes, and dive-bombers from the American Third Fleet effectively attacked these. Meanwhile, Japanese planes from Philippine airfields attacked the American fleet east of the islands, losing 150 in the conflict. That afternoon one of his planes brought news to Admiral Halsey, of the American Third Fleet, of 17 Japanese warships approaching from the north. The Admiral dispatched a group of aircraft carriers which, steaming all night, surprised this fleet at dawn. By the end of the day four of its carriers, two cruisers, and a destroyer had been sunk, only ten American planes being shot down.

The American Third Fleet, however, were unable to complete the destruction of this northern force because they were called back to help the Seventh Fleet in a fight against the Japanese warships which had succeeded in getting through the Subuyan Sea to emerge off Samar, east of the Philippines.

In the ensuing battle the Japanese lost two cruisers and a destroyer, and fled, when pursuing aircraft accounted for two more cruisers.

Meanwhile, the Japanese force which had approached through the Sulu Sea had been attacked at night by the American Seventh Fleet, which sank every ship.

In these tremendous conflicts the American Navy definitely sank 24 Japanese warships, including two battleships of 29,330 tons, and proved once again its magnificent fighting qualities.

## Bulgaria Comes to Terms

THE Armistice between the United Nations and Bulgaria has now been signed.

Under its terms, Bulgaria is to disarm and hand over all members of the German forces in Bulgaria, and she is to supply, and maintain such land, sea, and air forces as may be required by the Russian High Command; but at the end of hostilities with Germany these will be put on a peace footing under the Allied Control Commission.

Besides withdrawing her armed forces and officials from Greek and Yugoslav territory, Bulgaria is to give up all such territories acquired by her, and must withdraw from them all who were citizens of Bulgaria on January 1, 1940.

Bulgaria must immediately release and repatriate all

prisoners of war, internees, and refugees. All pro-Hitler organisations are to be dissolved, and war criminals arrested, while all detained for their United Nations sympathies must be released.

Wireless, post and telegraph and telephone, cinemas, theatres, and papers are to be subject to the Allied High Command.

All valuables and materials belonging to the United Nations and removed by Germany or Bulgaria are to be restored to their owners. Bulgaria is also to restore or make reparation for all lost or damaged property. All material of Germany and her satellites in Bulgaria is to be handed over, including ships. Finally, Bulgaria is to provide food for the suffering Greek and Yugoslav people, whom she has so grievously injured.

## AIRWAYS JUNCTION

A GREAT new Empire airport which will probably become the junction of a post-war Britain to South America air route has been constructed in West Africa.

It is expected that the new base will meet all our requirements for the next ten years. The first runway now in use is 2000 yards long, and a second is almost completed.

The airport was built by four

companies of the South African Engineering Corps, under the direction of a colonel of the British Royal Engineers, and working with them were 500 men of the Cape Coloured Corps and many West African labourers. From outside the Empire specialised help came, and notices had therefore to be posted in six languages — English, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and the local dialect.

## Chocolate For Europe's Children

A QUESTION asked in Parliament recently revealed that 20,000 tons of vitaminised chocolate are stored in this country, waiting to be sent to liberated Europe. The chocolate is not only a sweetmeat; it is an invaluable food for under-nourished children, and with a proposed daily ration of one ounce the amount in store is sufficient for two million children for a year.

A wonderful thing, this chocolate, now one of the staple products of our Colonial Empire. Yet it is only just 400 years since the Spaniards first sent it from Mexico, and it was at least a century thereafter before it became established as a beverage in Europe. Still longer was it before chocolate and cocoa were within reach of the masses.

Cortes, with his little band of horsemen, struggling up the mountains of Mexico to the proud capital of the Emperor Montezuma, took note of the strange drink with which the Mexican soldiers and peasants refreshed themselves, the dark-brown *chocolatl* or "cocoa-water" with its white froth. Soon trying it for himself, he was amazed at its effect in soothing and stimulating weary limbs and strained nerves. The friars who accompanied him, and settled down in the conquered land, saw that this cocoa bean was of importance, and it was they and their successors who first sent it across to Spain.

Let us hope that no time will be lost in sending supplies of this body-building chocolate to the suffering children of Europe.

## THE FALL OF BREDA

ALLIED troops have liberated the ancient Dutch town of Breda, famous for a declaration of pardon sent by Charles II just before his restoration, and for a treaty of peace signed in 1667 between England and France, Holland, and Denmark.

The well-known picture by Velasquez, The Surrender of Breda, is of the fall of the city in 1625 after a ten-months siege. It shows the Spanish Marquis de Spinola receiving the keys of Breda from Justin of Nassau.

## From War to Peace

SIR CHARLES BRUCE-GARDNER, who has been described as Britain's new trade chief, recently took office with the Board of Trade as the Chief Executive for Industrial Reconversion.

Thus Sir Charles, who is 57, is the man who will guide the change-over in British industry from war to peacetime production. He has had considerable industrial experience, and has held important Government posts during the war. Until recently Sir Charles was controller of Labour Allocation and Supply in the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

## THINGS SEEN

A steeplejack climbing into the golden crown on the top of Victoria Tower at Westminster.

A notice on a gate leading to a wooded drive to a large house in North London—No Conkers.

Seen on a Harrogate shop window: Cabbage 2½d per lb. Colliers 4d per lb.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

NYASALAND has been granted a sum of up to £345,000 for a five-year education plan.

Government buildings for the disposal of surplus war goods are being built on a 50-acre site at West Churton, on Tyneside.

By October 31 V.C. awards brought the total in this war to 110, of which the Army can claim 71.

Alexandra Day receipts were £185,000—a new record.

Field-Marshal Montgomery has been photographed with the ceremonial fly-switch sent to him by a Tanganyika chief, and has sent an autographed copy of it to the chief.

Please give generously for your poppy on November 11. The target is £1,000,000.

ABOUT 60 million bitter oranges and 30 million onions are shortly coming to this country from Spain.

The life of Parliament is to be extended for a further year, and the Labour Party has agreed that the Coalition shall be maintained until Germany's final defeat.

## Liberation News Reel

RUSSIAN troops are fighting in Norway and have captured the Arctic port of Kirkenes and several other Norwegian towns.

R.A.F. Transport Command has brought 40,000 wounded from the Western battlefield.

Ruthenia, the easternmost province of Czechoslovakia, has been entirely cleared of the enemy.

Mussolini's birthplace, Predappio, has been captured by Eighth Army Poles.

To tide them over the period of reorganisation the Allied Armies are giving the Belgians 200 tons of food daily during the first 20 days of November.

With the capture of Split by Marshal Tito's forces, over 100 miles of Yugoslavia's Adriatic shores are in Allied hands.

## Youth News Reel

THE Scout Silver Cross has been awarded to 11-year-old John Errington, of the 26th South-East Leeds Group, for his gallantry in rescuing an eight-year-old girl from drowning in a canal lock at Leeds.

At a Miniature Jamboree held in Aden recently there were present Scouts, Cubs, and Rovers of seven countries—England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Arabia, India, and Italy—and they were of seven different religious denominations.

Scouts and Rovers of the 1st Streatham Hill Group gave a show to shelterers in the big South London tube shelter. Although space was limited 150 people saw the performance.

## BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND

THE future of Scotland as a tourist country was discussed at a meeting of the Scottish Convention held in Glasgow recently.

The Chairman of the Convention, Mr J. M. MacCormick, said that in the past the tourist industry in Scotland had been a haphazard affair. The Scots themselves had what he thought a mistaken outlook in looking down on the industry and saying they did not want Scotland to become a land of innkeepers. He advocated that small railways should be established to take

Sir Robert McVitie Grant has given £70,000 to Edinburgh University for a Chair of Dermatology—the study of the skin.

About 1500 evacuees have just returned home to Gibraltar from Jamaica.

Donations for the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital in Addis Ababa are still urgently needed. They should be sent to Lord Horder, c/o Messrs H. Reynolds & Co., 1 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

Mr Ralph Ascheton is the new Chairman of the Conservative Party, being succeeded as Financial Secretary to the Treasury by Mr Osbert Peake.

HUNDREDS of thousands of dozens of shell eggs will soon be on the way to Britain from Canada.

Two Atlantic flight records have been broken. A commercial plane has flown from Elre to New York in 14 hours 17 minutes, and a Mosquito fighter-bomber from Gander, Newfoundland, to Scotland in 6 hours 45 minutes.

The Russians are making progress in East Prussia in spite of bitter resistance.

It was announced recently that 1200 Waafs are on their way from England to India.

Casualties for the past year in our army in South-East Asia total 27,108.

In a recent message to our Allies in the Balkans Mr Churchill said he was following with interest and admiration the heroic struggle waged against the enemy by the Yugoslav army.

Marshal Tito said recently: "Our mission is not only to liberate our country but, together with our Allies, to chase the enemy into his lair."

The attack on German positions in Holland on the second anniversary of Alamein was supported by a barrage from 200 guns.

As a memorial to Scouts who have fallen in the war an open-air chapel for youth organisations is to be built in a wood at Ruislip in Middlesex.

The Annual Report of the Boys Brigade shows an increase for last session of 111 Companies and nearly 5000 boys.

The B.B. Diploma for Gallant Conduct has been awarded to Lance-Corporal William Goldthorpe, aged 18, of the 9th Wigan Company, for rescuing a boy from deep water in a reservoir at Bickershaw.

THE membership of the Youth Hostels Association is now 134,000, an increase of 51,000 since the war began.

tourists to Scottish beauty spots served at present by neither bus nor train, saying that until an efficient transport service is set up there is no hope for a thriving tourist industry.

Mr R. Grieve, a member of the Scottish Junior Mountaineering Club, also spoke, and said that Scotland had a wealth of beauty and romance which was one of its greatest assets. The advertising to the world of this "heritage of beauty and romance in the Highlands" was one of the great tasks confronting the Scottish people.





### Air-Sea Rescue

A Sikorsky helicopter gives a demonstration of rescuing men from the sea, at a U.S. Naval Air Station in New Jersey.

### PINK MINK

As a result of scientific cross-breeding the U.S. fur industry is going in for increasingly colourful furs. A pink mink has already been produced, and others soon to come are golden and cameo-white skins, and light pastel-shaded pelts of lilac and light blue.

Some highly coloured results have also been obtained with fox furs; and one skin sold this year for £70 was a so-called golden-platinum skin.

### D'ARCY MINOR

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD schoolboy has been delighting hundreds of thousands of listeners to the wireless.

All who have heard the Will Hay Programme on the radio have been impressed by the boy who played the part of the precocious youngster D'Arcy Minor, the boy who gave Dr Muffin the advanced text-book answers to all the questions. This part, it has been revealed, was played by John Clark, who lives at Chipperfield, Hertfordshire, and is a scholar at Watford Grammar School.

Whether John will eventually take up a stage career after this successful start with the incomparable Will Hay is not known. Education and the "Matric" must come first. Anyway, John Clark has a pleasant face, a clear diction, and courage—for the microphone is an awe-inspiring ordeal. These are excellent qualities for the stage or, indeed, for many another career.

### Lemnos, Ancient Landing Ground

THE British forces who have liberated the Aegean island of Lemnos are on storied ground. Mudros Bay, on its southern side, was the headquarters of our Fleet during operations against Turkey in the First Great War, and it was on this island that the armistice was granted releasing the defeated Turks from their calamitous alliance with Germany.

Legend associates the island also with gods and goddesses of a pagan past; and perhaps it was these myths that caused the ancients and their followers for many generations to regard its soil as sacred and wonder-working. A certain red earth from Lemnos was supposed to be miraculously effective against wounds, snake-bite, and plague. The island's chief claim to fame, however, is that it was the

### A PROMISING YOUNG ARTIST

IN an exhibition of the Glasgow Fine Arts Institute two of the pictures are the work of a young fifteen-year-old artist, Lyndon Goodwin Harris.

Ever since he was a lad Lyndon's ambition has been to become an artist; and he has succeeded quickly. When he was thirteen he had a picture hung in the Royal Academy in London; and other important exhibitions, like those of the R.B.A. and the R.O.I., have accepted his works.

Of his two works at Glasgow one is an oil painting, valued at £70, of St John's Church, Halesowen. The other is a water-colour, priced £45, a well-balanced drawing of abbey ruins and farm buildings near his own home.

Lyndon Harris has decided that painting is to be his career, and he is about to start his studies at the Birmingham College of Art.

### TRADE'S WHEELS BEGIN TO TURN

TWEED manufacturers of the Scottish Border have received licences to cover a restricted amount of trade with the U.S.A., South America, Canada, and South Africa. This is the result of the Border industry pressing the Board of Trade for a revival of export, which had been practically at a standstill.

Hosiery circles now express a hope that this concession may lead to a similar one in the knitted-wear industry.

landing-ground of Hephaestus (Vulcan to the Romans), a sort of paratrooper in the ages before parachutes. It was on Lemnos that, ejected from heaven by his angry father Zeus, he is supposed to have made a safe landing—after a nine days' drop! Milton, in *Paradise Lost*, enshrining the descent, curtails its duration:

*From morn  
To noon he fell, from morn to  
dewy eve,  
A summer's day; and with the  
setting sun  
Dropt from the zenith like a  
falling star*

*On Lemnos the Aegean isle.*

Vulcan, first of blacksmiths, was supposed to have his workshops in the volcanoes, and it was on Lemnos, volcanic in origin, that ancient imagination made him complete his record plunge from the firmament.

### BACK TO THE CATHEDRAL

IT is good to learn that in spite of frequent imminent danger the precious stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral has virtually escaped damage so far during this war. For some of the finest glass in England is there enshrined, and certainly the oldest—a superb array in rich blue and ruby red, which has reflected the light of many centuries, and some, indeed, which Thomas Becket himself must have gazed upon.

In this connection it is good to learn also that some beautiful fragments of glass from late Norman times which, during restoration, had gone from Canterbury Cathedral and for a century or so have been in private hands, are now being brought back, eventually to take their place with the rest of the rare and fragile heritage in those hallowed and time-honoured windows.

### A FREE AIRPORT

NEWS comes from Eire that the world's first free airport is to be established at the mouth of the Shannon, this airport is an eastern terminal of the Transatlantic route; and by making it an international airport Eire hopes to attract much more commerce.

### NOBEL PRIZES AGAIN

NOBEL Prizes for physiology and medicine have just been awarded to three Americans and a Dane. These prizes, which are given from a trust fund bequeathed by Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite, are the first awards since 1939. The famous Nobel Peace Prize has not been given since 1938.

These latest awards are for 1943 and 1944, last year's being shared by the discoverer of the anaemia-combating Vitamin K, Professor Henrik Kam of Copenhagen (now in the U.S.A.), and Professor Edward Doisy of St Louis, for his researches into this vitamin. The 1944 prize goes to two American scientists for valuable work in connection with the nervous system—Professor Joseph Erlanger of St Louis, and Professor Herbert Gasser, of the Rockefeller Institution, New York.

### PRECIOUS OIL

A SPECIAL department is being set up by the Iran Government for the study of the country's natural oil resources, and to draft contract terms to be used as the basis of discussions with foreign oil companies still interested in concessions in Iran after the war.

### GLASS LIKE SILK

THREE big new factories have been started in Scotland for manufacturing textile goods and insulated materials from glass. The experimental stage is now past, and manufacturers are now endeavouring to cope with a demand far exceeding the supply. In the first factory the basic glass is produced, and this is transferred to the other two for conversion into silk-like threads, woven into insulating tapes and cloth.

The technical staffs of these factories have all been trained in Scotland, and the processes involved have not been used in any other part of Britain. Experts believe that it will soon be possible to produce textile goods for personal wear.

### Australia as Santa Claus

IT is not long since the Lord Mayor of London received from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne a poem written as tribute to the people of Britain.

*How shall we fathom your courage,  
How shall we count your worth?*

Now we learn that very soon the Lord Mayor of London will be receiving from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne a great gift of toys for our children.

No fewer than 70,000 toys are on their way, intended for children who have suffered in

air raids, and sent with all the heartfelt good wishes and affection that Australians bear for the Mother Country.

From Canberra and the big cities, from soldiers, sailors, and airmen, from factories and hospitals, from the sheep farms and the backwoods, and from English boys and girls far from the land of their birth, these toys are coming—teddy-bears and dolls and all the rest of the joyous company of childhood. Some of them carry special messages; all of them carry the goodwill of the kindest people on earth.

### WEEK-ENDS ON THE LAND

A LONDONER'S Land Club has been started in North London, and its members help at week-ends in the field or market garden. Farmers pay at the rate of a shilling an hour, and after expenses and fares have been deducted, the remainder of the money earned is sent to the Red Cross Agricultural Fund.

### IN THE SEARCHLIGHT

THE remarkable sight of thousands of starlings flying within the beam of a searchlight has been seen recently on the Suffolk coast. Each night the searchlight has been in operation thousands of the birds, from 200 feet up down to the apparatus itself, could be seen diving and circling in wild confusion. At times the searchlight beam appeared to be partly blacked out, so dense have been the flocks attracted to the light. When the beam has been switched off, many of the bewildered birds have fallen dazed to the ground. It is thought that the starlings have mistaken the searchlight for the rising sun.

### Milk Straws as Spills

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Scotland have been carrying out a very original scheme for raising funds for the Red Cross. They have been turning used milk straws into spills.

The waxed straws which are issued to the children with their milk ration at school are collected by the children after use. They are then dipped into disinfectant, dried on the window sills, and in some cases even coloured. The straws are then made up into bundles of twenty which are sold

at twopence or more as spills. In some cases also, with the aid of the teachers, the children are making small attractive containers for the spills. These are made from scraps of cardboard and covered with wallpaper or painted by hand.

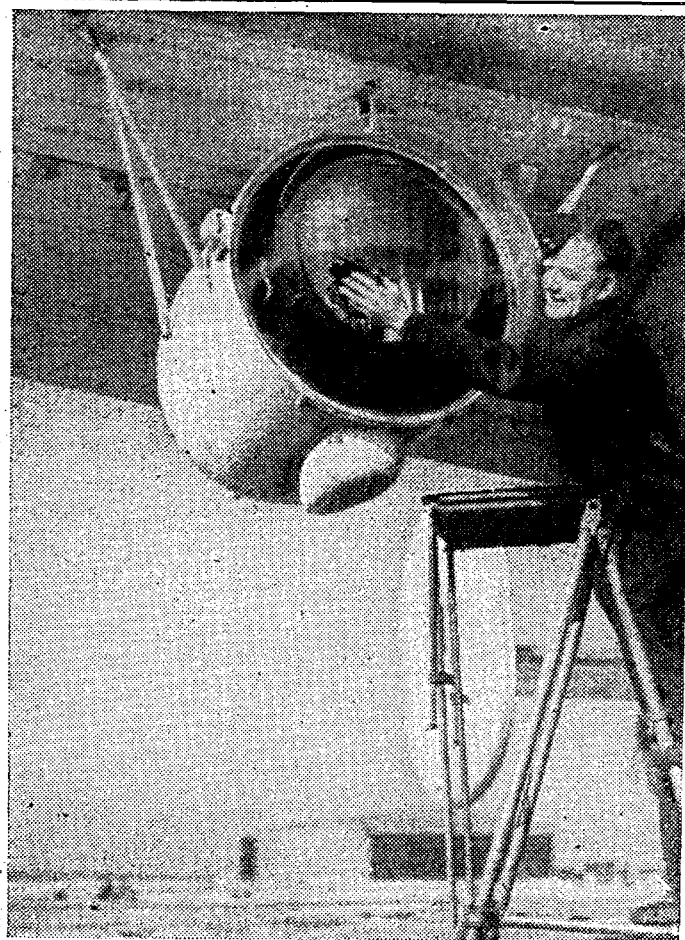
The sale of spills began in April 1943 and more than £4000 has already been realised. Two ambulances and one dental unit have been presented to the Red Cross Transport of Wounded Department.



### Guard of Honour

When British troops entered a Greek village, following their crossing of the Corinth Canal, these boys formed an impromptu guard of honour.





### Terror of the U-Boat

Cleaning the Leigh light on a Coastal Command Liberator. This powerful searchlight, which throws its beam for a considerable distance, has proved invaluable in hunting U-boats by night.

### A MAN OF THE LITTLE SHIPS

A BUILDING where seamen of all peace-loving nations may come for refreshment, rest, and recreation when their ships put in at the old-world Cornish seaport of Falmouth, has been dedicated to the memory of Robert Hitchens, one of the heroes of the little ships—Lieutenant-Commander Hitchens, R.N.V.R., or Hitch, as he was affectionately known to all.

Scarcely could there be a more fitting memorial to this brave man of quiet looks, quiet ways, and quiet speech, for although Hitch was by profession a country solicitor his heart belonged to the sea and to the ships, and he loved seamen.

The sea had beckoned to him when he was a small boy, and he grew to know the rugged coast of Cornwall, its tides and currents, its bays and creeks, its buoys and hidden rocks, as well as his own parish. The call of the sea came to him again in the stern days of war, and he joined the gallant armada of little ships that went out, Davids against Goliaths, to meet the enemy's leviathans as they slipped up and down Channel.

For three years, generally at

night and in all weathers, Hitchens led his flotilla of small gunboats into battle, harassing the enemy's shipping, keeping the Channel open, and defending our beloved island. Often fired on from all sides, often blinded in a hail of tracer and star-shell, Hitch and his men carried on, undaunted and unafraid.

They likened him to Drake; they said he had the mystic courage of Lawrence of Arabia. They called him their big brother, for not only did he lead them into action with great skill and daring, he also brought them out of the tightest corners. He always came out on top until, just as he had broken off his 148th engagement with the enemy, a last stray shell struck him. There were many men of the sea who mourned that day.

Robert Hitchens won the DSO and bar, the DSC and two bars, and thrice was he mentioned in dispatches. Now his name has been perpetuated in the building which the Missions to Seamen, supported by all Cornwall, have opened at Falmouth. Apart from the recreation room, canteen and offices, there is a Chapel of Remembrance.

### FIVE SCIENTISTS TAKE A USEFUL TRIP

FIVE eminent Indian scientists are now engaged in a tour of British industrial and scientific research centres; and it is hoped that the new ideas and a knowledge of modern methods obtained by them will prove a powerful stimulus to Indian industry.

The chief aim of these scientists is to equip themselves for the work of helping in the

development of India's industry and agriculture and the improvement of her transport and public health.

They desire that Indian workers and students should come in teams to this country to be trained, and also that technical personnel from this country will help in the initial stages of the coming development of Indian industry and agriculture.

## RUSSIA BUILDS HER HOMES AGAIN

THE destruction by war of thousands of towns and villages in Western Russia, from the Baltic to the Ukraine, has set the Government of the Soviet Union a colossal problem in rehousing. But Russia, in this as in so many other matters, is not found wanting.

Already, states the Daily Telegraph, scores of thousands of architect-designed houses have been completed to provide homes for displaced Russian families. One group of factories alone is manufacturing 4000 prefabricated houses a month.

Russia has imagination combined with a realist sense. Her new homes are not of a uniform pattern, but follow the traditional style of each region. Thus, for the houses in the northern region, where snows are thick for several months of the year, the roofs are sloped steeply, while in the south the roofs are flat and more Oriental-looking. The Commissariat for Agriculture have distributed no fewer than 82 different plans for farms and farm cottages, not to mention many others prepared by the Academy of Architecture for urban flats, houses, and community buildings.

Many Russian peasants are able to build their own little homes. For them drawings are available which will provide for the maximum of comfort, health, and convenience—even an ice cellar is included. Furthermore, accommodation for the peasants' animals appears in these plans!

In community rehousing all the buildings are centrally heated, and there are shops, clubs, laundries, and children's play-rooms. It is interesting, indeed flattering, to note that in these community plans the Soviet Government have followed the English tradition of setting the buildings round a village green.

Soviet Russia, realising that homes for those of her people who have been rendered homeless by the wreck of war are a paramount and urgent necessity, has got off the mark with truly admirable speed. We hope that Britain will be as expeditious. Certainly nothing is more urgent.

### Looking to His Laurels

THREE years ago the front garden of a London C.N. reader was severely blitzed; but among the growths to survive was a big laurel—an aucuba. It was a high, upstanding shrub, living in competition with shoudering neighbours.

Some of its branches were forced from the perpendicular to the horizontal, and parts that had previously received little light were freely exposed. In this form they have recovered and grown, new stems springing upright from the solid wood; and, whereas in its old, closely-confined pyramid form the shrub produced leaves averaging only three inches or so long, the new growth seems to be prodigious. One of these laurel leaves, picked at random the other day, was seven inches long and three wide.

So we find that shrubs, like children, given freedom to grow unchecked, respond with unwonted luxuriance of development.

## The EDITOR'S TABLE

### A Tale of Dr Temple

ON one occasion during the war the Archbishop stood outside a huge Glasgow shipyard as the men poured out for their dinner hour. Standing on a box this stalwart, upstanding man held a huge crowd of shipyard men as silent listeners as he spoke to them of a righteousness based on Christian principles. "Yon mon speaks sense," said a riveter in broad Scotch.

This canny Scot, we think, summed up the personality of one of the greatest men who have sat in the Chair of St Augustine at Canterbury.

### TURNCOATS

THE German Army has just received supplies of a new secret weapon, according to Goebbels. It is a camouflage uniform.

The uniform is double-sided, one side being white and the other khaki. In snow the white side will make the wearer invisible, and in normal weather the khaki side will be worn with the idea of creating confusion among Allied troops.

Does the Herr Doktor wish the German Army, too, to become a lot of turncoats? Nazi Germany's former allies should have been sufficient for him.

### Varsity and Kinema

WE congratulate Sir Alexander Korda for offering, and Oxford University for accepting, a gift of £5000 to cover the cost of sending a commission to visit selected departments of drama at American universities.

Although, it is pointed out, Oxford is not committing itself to anything, it is good to see this academical interest in the drama enjoyed by the masses and so ably produced by Sir Alexander.

## CARRY ON

### A MIND CONTENT

DOWN on the bay small ships are sailing in the breeze, Amid the tranquil glory of the sunlit seas; Above the cliffs a lark is singing in the sky, And there are snow-white seagulls passing slowly by.

The distant hills and dales are dreaming in the west, Where peaceful hamlets sleep, and all the world is blest; And in my little garden there are fragrant flowers, Where bees and wild-birds seem to spend their happy hours.

I have a roof above my head, a bite to eat, And fellow-mortals still to greet me in the street; And often comes a blackbird singing at my door . . . Ah! who am I or any man to wish for more?

E. Oxburgh

## A SNARE—AND

THE rabbit in a hutch may be an attractive pet, but in the country it is a destructive pest.

The damage it does to crops is so extensive that the rabbit's share cannot be spared in wartime and so, as an emergency measure, the pre-war prohibition on placing steel traps in the open has been suspended. But many creatures other than rabbits are being caught in this cruel device.

In a letter to The Times the Secretary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds mentioned a case where about

## Religious

MR ROBERT SPEAIGHT, the actor, who is best known for his playing of the part of Thomas Becket in T. S. Eliot's *Murder in a Cathedral*, has been speaking of the need for a revival of religious drama in the theatre.

Mr Speaight has no desire to foist religious drama on the public for religious drama's sake. He urges that it must be basically sound drama which the public will be willing to pay to see. We all know the morality

## Under the E

A RACING motorist declares that his son wants to follow in his footsteps. Or tyre tracks?

DRIED turtle meat will remain good for fifty years. Yet a lot of things can turn turtle.

PUT yourself in the seller's place when you buy, says a writer. Then you won't need to spend.

A PARLIAMENTARY candidate is worried about his election address. Hopes it will be the House of Commons.

PETER WANTS KNC



If a chineyswe always a black

## Gibbon Finishes

I SHALL now commemorate the hour of my final deliverance. It was on the day, or rather night, of the 27th of June, 1787, between the hours of eleven and twelve, that I wrote the last lines of the last page, in a summer house in my garden. After laying down my pen, I took several turns in a berceau, or covered walk of acacias, which commands a prospect of the country, the lake, and the mountains. The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was

### THIS HAPPY BREED

AND you, good yeoman, Whose limbs were made in England, show us here The mettle of your pasture; let us swear That you are worth your breeding; which I doubt not; For there is none of you so mean and base, That hath not noble lustre in your eyes. Shakespeare



## A DELUSION?

70 gins were set in the open with the result that many pheasants and other birds were trapped, but few rabbits. In another case five barn owls were found in traps, and barn owls are good friends of the farmer.

It is therefore good to learn that the Minister of Agriculture is considering whether the continued use of steel traps in the open shall be allowed. We should like to hear of the total prohibition of their use, in the open and in the burrows, for there are more humane methods of disposing of Brer Rabbit.

## Drama

play Everyman. Modern examples are Ben Hur, The Miracle, The Passing of the Third Floor Back, Joseph and His Brethren, and The Boy David.

We agree that there is great scope for plays with a religious basis. We agree also that such plays should be of sound construction dramatically, calculated to appeal to the public interest. We would urge, however, that the message of the play should arise naturally from the story told and not be forced.

## Editor's Table.

**PUCK TO DW** AMERICANS may be able to travel by air from New York to London for £66. Unless they can get it at home.

**SOME** people think they will be unlucky if they put up an umbrella indoors. They are lucky to have an umbrella.

**PROFITEERING** in the book trade must be stopped. Those who do it should be brought to book.

**ALWAYS** look your best, advises a doctor. What at?

## His Great Work

reflected from the waters, and all nature was silent. I will not dissemble the first emotion of joy on recovery of my freedom, and, perhaps, the establishment of my fame. But my pride was soon humbled, and a sober melancholy was spread over my mind, by the idea that I had taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion, and that whatsoever might be the future fate of my History, the life of the historian must be short and precarious.

## The Meaning of Cheerfulness

WHAT, indeed, does not that word cheerfulness imply? It means a contented spirit, it means a pure heart, it means a kind and loving disposition, it means humility and charity, it means a generous appreciation of others and a modest opinion of self.

W. M. Thackeray

## Red Poppies

O PRECIOUS emblems of our fallen kin,  
Let us not lightly buy them and pass on.  
They tell of what we had to pay to win,  
Of those on whom the light of glory shone.

As poppies grow in fields of ripening corn  
And fall when reapers gather in their grain,  
So brave men fell that others, yet unborn,  
Might reap the harvest of their blood and pain.

The tribute that we pay is small indeed.

A willing, sacred offering let it be  
In thankfulness for those who met our need

And kept our country noble, great, and free.

W. Spencer Leeming

## Coffee and Courage

ON returning to Washington from a visit to England, Mr Maury Maverick, a distinguished American, is reported to have said: "London has the worst coffee and the most courageous people in the world."

We freely admit that it has required courage to drink the coffee sometimes offered to us, but that, doubtless, was not what Mr Maverick meant.

Americans have long made our weather and our coffee butts of their humour. It must have been three American visitors who were responsible for the following chestnut:

"It looks like rain," grunted one, looking out of the window.

"Yes, but it tastes like tea," said another, drinking.

"Well," added the third, "they call it coffee!"

## JUST AN IDEA

As Pascal wrote, Conscience is the book we should read most often.

## A PRAYER FOR THE NIGHT

Now the day is over,  
Night is drawing nigh;  
Shadows of the evening  
Steal across the sky.

Now the darkness gathers,  
Stars begin to peep;  
Birds and beasts and flowers,  
Soon will be asleep.

Jesu, give the weary  
Calm and sweet repose;  
With Thy tenderest blessing  
May mine eyelids close.

Grant to little children  
Visions bright of Thee;  
Guard the sailors tossing  
On the deep blue sea.

Through the long night watches,  
May Thine angels spread  
Their white wings above me,  
Watching round my bed.

When the morning wakens,  
Then may I arise,  
Pure and fresh and sinless,  
In Thy holy eyes.

S. Baring-Gould

## A WELFARE MISSION

THE welfare of the troops in India and the South-East Asia Command is, Mr Winston Churchill recently assured the House of Commons, a matter about which he is personally concerned. "We have every determination," he declared, "that the men in India and the SEAC, where there is so much disease, malaria, and so on, shall not be neglected in any way."

Mr Churchill announced that he had already sent to India as an investigator the Earl of Munster, Under-Secretary of State for India.

Lord Munster has travelled deep into the heart of the Arakan jungle, where he has interrogated the officers and men who are fighting our battles on the Burma front. He has made a proper business of his interrogation, inviting the fighting soldiers to be quite frank with him, and making careful notes of their views.

Lord Munster has full authority to communicate directly with the Prime Minister "so that if there is anything which wants a helping hand from the War Cabinet it can be done."

How much better is this direct method than relying on complaints from a distance.

## Sons of the Air

IF the ATC of future years, as well as providing the numbers, produced minds equipped with a true appreciation of the meaning and value of the air, its peacetime work would equal in importance its wartime achievements.

These words were spoken by Captain Harold Balfour, Under-Secretary of State for Air, at the opening show of the film Sons of the Air, which pictures life in the ATC, and they reveal the high opinion which the Government holds of this fledgling army—this corps d'élite.

There has perhaps been more than a little disappointment in the ranks of the ATC because, with our surplus of candidates and our dominance of the air, so many members could never be put into flying training. However, as Captain Balfour said, victory lay ahead, but the ATC went flying on; and the Government looked forward to the ATC playing a vital rôle in peacetime as a main source of recruits of the finest quality for civil and military flying alike.

On the young wings of the ATC, we are confident, this much-tried nation will rise again to the heights of all its old grandeur.

## DAVID'S PIGEON

A SMALL boy was seen walking along a main street in Sydney, Australia, with a pigeon perched on his shoulder.

Asked how he acquired his pet, the boy, whose name was David, said that he and a friend were playing one day when they saw the pigeon being carried off by a hawk. Whisking out a catapult they hit the bird of prey in mid-air with such force that it dropped its victim.

Having thus defeated his Goliath, David took the injured pigeon home and nursed it back to health. Now it accompanies him everywhere on his shoulder.

## Lancashire's Grey Beauty

THE National Trust has stated recently that some of its most lovely possessions in the Lake District are in Lancashire around Lake Coniston. North of the River Ribble, too, is the beautiful country of the Fylde with its orchards and green fields. But even industrial Lancashire has a grey beauty of its own in autumn.

People who do not know her have wild and defamatory ideas about Lancashire, writes a CN correspondent. As the train goes north beyond Warrington the sight of chimneys, soap factories, a colliery tip or two, or if you are coming to Liverpool, the smoking slag heaps of Widnes, give a one-sided picture of this famous county.

## An Afternoon Walk

We thought about this as we took a road on a Saturday afternoon on the edge of the Wigan coalfield. St Helens with the tall chimneys of the glass works lay behind us and the open country in front. It was grey—the sort of autumn grey which settles down very quickly in Lancashire into fog. The field path led through this year's cornfield. At one end of it a man was beginning to plough it up. He and his team were almost knee-deep in mist, and the earth was coming up a good, rich black. Half a dozen pigeons, the property of some collier fancier, were flapping round the furrows. Where the path led to, the road was a dark, overgrown pond with the trees standing dark and miserable.

The mist began to lift or, rather, the sun made a last afternoon effort to break through. On the road, paved with stone sets at intervals, a band of children with paper bags were out blackberrying. We passed a gang of boys dressed as Red Indians, with huge trousers made of sacking. One of them had a coil of rope and string and every now and then let off a small detonator by banging it vigorously on the hard road.

You are never far from a hill outside a Lancashire town, with a piece of windy heath on the top and a line of trees on the brow. The local people call this one Billinge Lump. Down one side it is wooded with deep dells filling up with autumn leaves. A few grey sheep were on the short grass and a wispy mist filled up the bottom. As

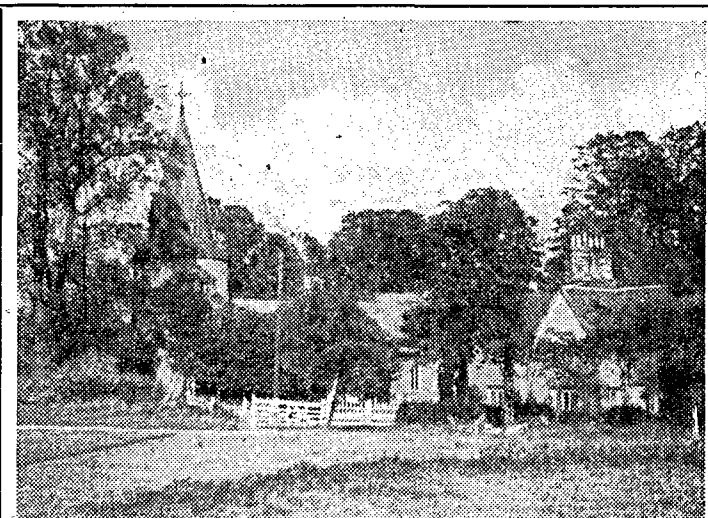
we walked on to the top the sun, reddening in the west, was above the mist, hanging as a ball of fire. The crown of the hill was a beacon station, so the villagers say, in the Armada days.

In Billinge they used to make the old Lancashire spindle-back chairs from birchwood, and on a clear day from the Lump you can see the silver line of the Mersey and the wide-stretching plain that goes on to Wigan with its one hundred and thirty-five giant chimneys. Over there are the flat potato fields of Ormskirk. This part of Lancashire does not go in for a flaming autumn. A copper birch or a golden chestnut seem out of place. The colours are more muted, but they are not without their appeal.

We took the road to Upholland with its straggling street and two or three old foursquare Lancashire houses whose stones have been blackened with flying smoke. In one field a crowd of young women in clogs and aprons were turning out a potato "cave" which was made in the spring. Far on the right were the tips and the wheels of a colliery. Industry and agriculture seem to go on very happily together, the cows feeding up the pit-brow, and the smoking tip encroaching on a ploughed field.

## The Old Farmhouse

This is not exalted country, although the people are very proud of it, and keep telling you that their town is near fine country. We met a band of young people going out to have tea in an old farmhouse, deep in the mist and woods under Billinge Lump. It has an old duck pond and a parlour with low roofs and was there before anybody discovered coal or worried about glass. These Lancashire lads and lasses were going to spend the evening singing round an American organ and walk home at night when, as likely as anything, the stars would be out in a clear autumn sky.



THIS ENGLAND

The lovely old church with its Norman tower, at Great Leighs in Essex



## At School in the African Bush

THE African native's desire for education has grown during wartime, but he is still dependent mainly on primitive bush schools. Some of these schools in Southern Rhodesia have been described recently by a young missionary.

His duties take him to fourteen schools, and to visit them all means a roundabout journey of many hundreds of miles in a car which is able to cross the roadless bush, plough through dried river beds, and carry food for a fortnight, as well as equipment for the classes.

A school is usually built near a group of native villages, and children come from five or six miles round for morning school, which begins at half-past six! The building is usually of burnt bricks, but some are made of mud plastered between upright poles. The roofs are thatched with grass, or if the school is near a town it may have a corrugated iron roof in which are many holes. Not all the buildings have windows.

Nearly every school has an old gas cylinder for a bell and its echo sounds very clearly in the morning air as the children begin to come in, usually without having had breakfast. There may be sixty or seventy of them, one or two with bicycles, and some on donkeys; but most have walked. An inspection of hands, face, head, and neck is the native teacher's first duty, and then after morning prayers and a Scripture lesson the register is marked.

There are five classes in the one classroom, and only one teacher. His method is to take the first-year arithmetic pupils outside and start them on counting piles of stones. Most of the equipment of the school, beyond

books and slates, is home-made. Everyone sits on the mud floor, which is periodically renewed by the whole school carrying fresh mud in. All the clay, wood, and basket materials for practical work are obtained locally.

After the arithmetic comes writing. The beginners write in the sand outside and the older pupils have slates and exercise books. The school day, which is over by eleven in the morning, finishes with an hour of practical work. Some make baskets and wooden spoons, others do clay-modelling, and the girls sewing, but everyone is taught the important arts of growing mealies, cotton-seed, monkey-nuts, and vegetables. Each school, too, has its belt of young trees, for it encourages the planting of trees in all the villages.

Attendance at school is entirely voluntary, but everyone is eager to learn and the parents out of their poverty willingly pay the two shillings a year for each pupil, in addition to paying for books and slates. When the missionary visits the school the parents gather for a great discussion about curriculum and methods. The children are sent home to herd the cows, and the mothers and fathers, mostly dressed in skins, sit on the school floor.

Many of the children do not get beyond Standard I and many hundreds do not go to school at all. But those who go, and persevere, form the beginning of a new Africa.

## THE PROBLEM OF THE PASTURES

THE duration of meat rationing in this country depends largely upon the rapidity with which the British sheep population can be increased, declares Dr John Hammond, of the School of Agriculture, Cambridge.

Before the war 46 per cent of the lamb and mutton we ate in Great Britain was home produced. Sheep, Dr Hammond points out, are grass fed, but pigs and poultry need imported food which, more often than not, they do not now get and are not likely to get for some time after the end of the war.

This important matter needs careful watching, writes the C.N. farming correspondent. It happens sometimes that sheep graze to the detriment of, or instead of, milking herds, for sheep are very hungry, greedy animals. Lush grass may be the ideal food for fattening sheep, but it should be, now and always, a priority food for the cows which give us our milk. If lush green meadows are available, then cows or heifer calves should be on them. Our fine milking herds should be increased. Nothing is more important than milk and everything else must, if necessary, be subordinated to that end.

There are plenty of grazing lands which are unsuitable for cattle. It is on these that sheep, and if possible more sheep, should take their meals. If we must have more lamb and mutton for home consumption, let us see to it that our milk supply does not suffer. There could be no bigger blow to the health of our nation.

## Make Your Own Christmas Toys

THE Board of Trade have announced that more toys are to be released for Christmas than was the case last year. This sounds like good news from Santa Claus. But, though controlled, wartime prices are likely to be considered very high.

A way out, therefore, if the children are not to be disappointed, is to make toys at home. In fact, this is being provided for by the big stores, where toymaking materials, patterns, designs, and instructions for making all kinds of toys and small articles can be obtained. Some of the materials are being offered coupon free!

Possibilities in the way of home toymaking lie mainly in the making of soft toys like teddy bears, monkeys, rabbits, and other animals. The more elaborate toys will have to wait until the times will permit.

We hope that toymaking will receive an early priority when peacetime industries are revived, for there is nothing which children miss more.

## SOAP NEWS

A NEW general purpose soap has been produced by British manufacturers specially for the 14th Army in Burma.

A brown soap, it is the result of extensive research, and it can be used for washing, shaving, or laundering purposes with soft, hard, or even sea water, at any reasonable temperature.

After the war a similar soap will be available in the home market.

## The Mystery of Uranus and His Moons

THE mysterious planet Uranus is now well placed for observation as soon as the sky is dark, writes the C.N. Astronomer. It may be found quite easily, appearing a little way to the north of the Hyades which are high in the south-east in the evening.

Uranus appears to the unaided eye slightly brighter than a star of sixth magnitude, and therefore it is just discernible on a clear dark night. Given some clear nights during next week those with sharp eyes will be able to find Uranus with the aid of the accompanying star map.

He will be found appearing among the stars of Taurus, the Bull, to the left of the bright reddish star Aldebaran and in the position indicated on the map. Field-glasses, or even opera-glasses, will greatly help in perceiving Uranus, the broken circle on the map indicating approximately the field-of-view

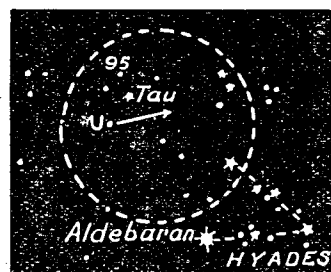
nomers say. Later on, when the perspective alters, Uranus will be seen to go forward again.

It is very fascinating to get a glimpse of this strange world, the farthest that is visible to the naked eye. Uranus remained unknown as a planet until March 13, 1781, when William Herschel first discovered that this mysterious object was not a star. It was then in the constellation of Gemini, and in five years' time Uranus will be in the same relative position once more. In the meantime, however, he has nearly twice performed a circuit of the sky, for the year of Uranus consists of 84 of our years and 6 days.

Uranus is at present about 1720 million miles away and will be at his nearest to us for this year on December 3, when his distance will be 1704 million miles. This is the nearest he has been for 40 years. For Uranus is now approaching perihelion, or his nearest point to the Sun and therefore to the Earth also, which will occur in only two years' time. Therefore, now is a very favourable time to study Uranus and his four satellites, particularly by those possessing good telescopes.

There is now another advantage for us northern observers, for Uranus appears not far from overhead in the course of this and coming winters. This permits prolonged observation with the possibility of discovering more moons for Uranus. In Sir William Herschel's time Uranus was accredited with six moons; but later this number was increased to eight until the 1870's, when lack of verification caused the existence of four of them to be doubted and finally abandoned, as in the case of Saturn's Themis. The present favourable position of Uranus, being similar to that when Herschel's keen observation claimed to have seen six, might re-establish his claim with the aids of present-day photography and great telescopes.

G. F. M.



of the glasses. It will be quite easy to distinguish which of the apparently small stars is Uranus by means of the fourth-magnitude star Tau. This, together with Aldebaran, will guide the observer's eye direct to Uranus, which will appear no brighter than the two small stars to the left of Tau, one of which is numbered 95.

Uranus will gradually move toward the right, and in the course of the next two months will travel to the extent shown by the arrow on the map. This will be most interesting to watch as opportunity offers, when this far-off world will appear as though passing below the star Tau; but the change of position relative to the star is chiefly due to the effect of the Earth's motion in her orbit, which is making Uranus appear to go backward, or retrograde, as astro-

## Democracy in the Making

THE Town Meeting is an American tradition which dates back to New England and its colonial days. These gatherings, at which Americans of all creeds could express their opinions, were the source of American freedom and democracy.

From them, in recent days, has sprung the Junior Town League, which holds youth meetings all over the country to debate American and international affairs. More than a million American high school students, mostly between the ages of 15 and 19, will now take part in these discussions, some of which will be broadcast like the radio programme Town Meeting of the Air, in which topical problems are discussed by prominent citizens.

The Junior Town Meeting League, a private organisation

with a thousand members from the educational profession, runs its own newspaper, Our Times. In this publication a new topic is dealt with every week, and the League also offers advice and assistance to schools, radio stations, and other organisations planning to hold meetings.

At these meetings an outline of the subject under discussion together with facts, figures, and opinions, is usually given by a few students or other qualified persons, and then opinions are invited from the audience.

Such discussion groups are becoming popular, too, in our own schools and Youth Clubs. They are a grand idea which we hope will spread throughout our country. From this fertile soil, thought and free speech, good citizens and good democrats will grow in both our English-speaking countries.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Billy's Strange Hiding Place

HE was the funniest little fellow. And so tiny. No one would guess that he was nearly seven.

Of course they knew at the farm where he was staying. But Mrs Dobson, the farmer's wife, forgot, and treated him like a baby. Once she even



put him on her knees and danced him up and down.

And after that he took care to keep out of her way.

But it was very lonely. Even Mrs Dobson seemed to know that, for she told Billy one morning that she had asked someone in to play with him.

Billy looked up with a happy little smile. And then Mrs Dobson added: "You know Leslie, don't you?"

Leslie! Billy nearly choked with anger. To expect him, a big boy of six and three-quarters, to play with a baby girl of four!

As soon as he could he ran off. He meant to hide till Leslie had gone.

But where?

While he stood thinking and wondering his eyes fell upon the henhouse. The hens were strutting about the run, and the house was empty.

Quick as lightning Billy ran and squeezed inside.

Just as he did that he heard voices, and out from the house came Mrs Dobson—and a boy about Billy's own age.

"Billy! Billy!" called Mrs Dobson. "Where are you? Leslie's come!"

Billy was astonished. So it was another Leslie, after all!

He waited till they were out of sight, and then he crept out and joined them.

But when Mrs Dobson said: "Why, Billy, what a state you are in! Where have you been?" he didn't answer.

"I've got a scooter!" cried Leslie. "Come on!"

And away they went, hand in hand, laughing merrily.



## A Pistol at the Heart of Germany

THE desperate fighting which has been taking place on both sides of the estuary of the Scheldt may have a great bearing on the duration of the war. Its object has been to enable the vast supplies needed by the armies on the Western Front to be landed in the great seaports to which the Scheldt gives access.

When their supply ships can berth at Antwerp and Ghent the power that can be employed by the British and American forces will be multiplied many times. For Antwerp is one of the greatest ports of the world, and it fell entirely undamaged into Allied hands, so rapid was their advance and so efficient the anti-sabotage work of the Belgians.

By their tenacious resistance on both banks of the Scheldt estuary, aided by powerful guns on the Island of Walcheren, the Germans long postponed the use of this inland port, fifty miles from the open sea. At the same time, too, they neutralised Belgium's second port, Ghent, which is also reached from the Scheldt, through the ship canal named after and starting from Terneuzen. For centuries the busiest seaport in Western Europe, Napoleon regarded Antwerp as a "pistol pointed at the heart of England." Its modern capacity is revealed by the fact that in 1937 sea-going ships registering over 25 million tons, unloaded 14 million tons of goods on its 3½ miles of riverside quays and 26½ miles of dock frontage, while canal and river boats brought in nearly half as much again. In peacetime over 230 shipping lines left Antwerp for every corner of the globe, and the forest of masts was as distinguishing a feature of the city as its lovely towers.

Antwerp's docks even extend over the frontier into Holland and their main entrance is

through the Kruisschaus lock, which is 885 feet long, 115 feet wide and has a depth of 33 feet at its gates. It was here the demolition charges placed by the Nazis were removed at night by the Belgian patriots.

Nor were the Nazis able to destroy the equipment which is up to date and abundant—630 hoisting devices, including many 150-ton floating cranes and 15-ton loading gantries with hoppers for 200 tons. The 24 floating pneumatic grain-elevators can each trans-ship from 200 to 300 tons of cereals an hour. The railway system is as vast, in the harbour area alone being 500 miles of double track, linking Antwerp with every industrial centre in Europe. Greatest and latest of its inland waterways is the Albert Canal which runs 79 miles to Liège. Over 103 million cubic yards of soil were excavated in its construction, and it has only six locks. Navigable by 2000-ton barges this canal will be invaluable in supplying the Allied Forces.

As to Ghent, on its ten miles of quays are over 100 heavy cranes, a 250-ton floating derrick and transporter bridges, so it is excellently equipped for the heaviest of materials. In its record year, nearly three million tons of shipping entered the inland port of Ghent.

With these two ports available, not only will the armies be more rapidly supplied, but more food and other necessities will reach the Belgian people.

## War's Stranglehold on Our Trade

BRITISH exports in 1943 amounted to only 29 per cent of those in 1938—that is the outstanding though not altogether surprising fact revealed by the recently published Board of Trade figures of our export trade during the war.

This terrific decline is, of course, largely due to the fact that most European markets

since 1940, and most Far Eastern markets since 1942, have been closed to us. It is offset to a great extent by the increased value of our exports, every £100 worth in 1938 being worth £171 in 1943. But even allowing for this greatly enhanced value, the picture of our wartime trade is still gloomy, our exports of 1943 being worth £232,000,000 compared with the total 1938 figure of £471,000,000.

Much of this trade will return with peace, and there is no call for depression. What is wanted is a nation-wide realisation of the severe blow war has inflicted on our trade, and of the tremendous effort needed to restore it. With that in mind, with goodwill all round, and with its sleeves rolled up, Britain can face the future proud and confident.

## Child Workers 100 Years Ago

A HUNDRED years ago Sir James Graham, a member of Lord Peel's cabinet, secured the passage through Parliament of an Act prohibiting the employment of children under eight in cotton and silk mills. It was the first of a series which were only passed through Parliament in the face of considerable opposition. Today it seems almost unbelievable that little children

## OLD SHIPS AND NEW

IN his presidential address to the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders at Glasgow recently, Mr A. Murray Stephen urged that the export of old ships from Britain should be banned; these ships should either be kept as a strategic reserve, or be scrapped.

Mr Stephen said that the old argument, that by exporting old ships Britain induces other countries not to build new ships to compete with us, fails to convince anyone today.

To this country a strong ship-building industry was a necessity, and conditions should be formed for the construction of all British ships, and the carrying out of all major repairs, in British yards. As a security measure after the war Mr Stephen suggested that the Axis countries should be barred from building and owning ocean-going ships.

## The Passing of a Princess

MEMORIES of Victorian times have been revived for many by the death of Princess Beatrice at the age of 87. The youngest and last-surviving of Queen Victoria's nine children, and great-aunt of our King, Princess Beatrice was her mother's constant companion in her last years.

She will be greatly missed in the Isle of Wight, where she spent so great a part of her long life, and where as a young princess—in the church at Whippingham, so redolent of Victorian memory—she had been married to Prince Henry of Battenberg. Princess Beatrice will also be greatly missed by many charitable organisations, for she had ever been a devoted friend to good causes.

## SHERWOOD FOREST APPEAL

THE National Trust wants £45,000 by the end of this year to ensure the preservation for all time of the beautiful 3800-acre Clumber Estate, in Nottinghamshire.

We do not doubt that the money will be quickly forthcoming, for Clumber Park, with its great ancestral house by the lake and its famous three-mile-long avenue of limes, is part of ancient Sherwood Forest, and there is no more romantic corner in all our fair land.

Sherwood Forest, the haunt of Robin Hood and Little John, of Friar Tuck and Maid Marian, of Will Scarlett and all the Merry Men, is woven into our literature. It is also woven into the hearts of all who love an English greenwood—and we are sure that they will not countenance the failure of this appeal.

## A Great Archbishop

To the deep regret of all earnest people Dr William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury since April 1942, has passed on at 63. A Free Church Minister has sent us this appreciation.

WE were standing in line for a bus in Victoria Street, London. It was a wet afternoon, and as we waited patiently we noticed ahead a broad, sturdy figure laughing and talking with a friend. The laughing man was Dr Temple, Primate of All England.

Dr Temple was the most democratic Archbishop England has ever had. Some called him the People's Archbishop because the ordinary man listened when William Temple spoke.

His physical make-up gave him majesty, especially when you saw him walking last of all in an ecclesiastical procession, clad in brilliant scarlet. He had laughter in his eyes. His voice was clear bell-tone and he gave every word its clear worth. It was this clarity of speech and mind which gave William Temple his hold on the minds of the British people.

This friendly, human man with a sharp, clear mind fashioned in the schools at

Oxford was a visible reminder of the long tradition which lies behind the English church. All round him at Canterbury were reminders of the English past—the beauty of the great cathedral, the tombs of princes and prelates, the slow-moving River Stour which was there when the light of the Gospel first came. These ancient symbols of English Christianity lived again vigorously in the person of William Temple, Saint Augustine's 95th successor.

When Dr Temple came up to London to live very simply in Lambeth Palace he would walk across Lambeth Bridge to the House of Lords, where again and again he would speak with wisdom and authority on political matters which need the mind and the conscience of the church brought to bear on them. He probably did more than any other living Englishman to show the man in the street that the Christian religion has got everything to do with How you Live.



Drink Delicious

## Ovaltine for Health, Energy and the Will-to-win

PERFECT physical fitness, abundant energy and the will-to-win—these are the qualities you must possess if you are to be successful in sports and games.

Remember that the leading coaches and trainers insist on 'Ovaltine' as an essential part of the training diet for players and athletes in their charge. They know that there is nothing like 'Ovaltine' for building up physical fitness and stamina.

'Ovaltine' has also played an important part in many outstanding feats of endurance. Famous mountaineering expeditions, including the last two Mount Everest Expeditions, carried 'Ovaltine' as an essential part of their high climbing ration. Explorers have taken it to the ends of the earth.

In everyday life, in your school work, the same fitness and vigour are just as valuable. That is why you should drink delicious 'Ovaltine' every day. It will keep you fit in body and mind and help you always to do your best.

Prices in Gt. Britain and N. Ireland, 2/4 and 4/- per tin

**Famous for writing!**

The GILLOTT range of writing pens is the finest in the world... unequalled for variety... unsurpassed for quality. At present supplies may be limited, but the GILLOTT tradition of excellence persists.

By appointment to the late King George V.

**Gillott's Pens**

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD.  
VICTORIA WORKS - BIRMINGHAM

**SHORTHAND**

**DUTTON ONE-WEEK SHORT-HAND** is accepted by the Services and examining bodies. Learnt in 12 2-hour lessons. Send 3d. Stamps for First Lesson. Write Dept. C.N., 92-3, Great Russell St., W.C.1.

**IN ONE WEEK**



# The BRAN TUB

## LIKE OLD TIMES

"Now, boy," said the rich official, stopping at a wayside garage and holding out his petrol coupons. "Some petrol, quick! You'll never get on unless you push. That's how I got my money—by pushing!"

"Sorry, sir," said the lad, "but you'll have to push again! We haven't a drop of petrol left."

## The Crane Family

THE cranes are all long-legged, long-necked, and long-billed birds, very powerful on the wing and able to fly long distances at a great height. The Stanley crane is one of the most graceful and stands over four feet high. It is leaden-blue in colour, a shy and wary bird, and is found in South Africa.

## Jacko's Ill Wind

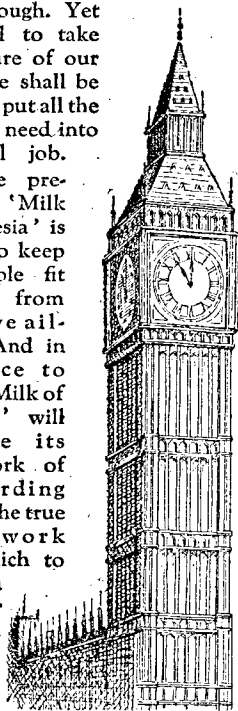


JACKO had been to town to fetch his mother's laundry and he was pulling it home on his truck when a great gust of wind suddenly blew open the lid of the basket. Before Jacko could close it, the clothes were flying everywhere—shirts and socks and collars all dancing away in the breeze. Jacko immediately gave chase, ably assisted by Bouncer; but it was some time before the washing was all recovered, and it is to be feared that most of it needed an immediate return to the laundry.

## ...when chimes the Victory hour...

... we shall have another job of work to tackle—winning the peace. It is a task that will call for new ideas and new energy. We have the sound good sense to see it through. Yet if we fail to take proper care of our health we shall be unable to put all the effort we need into this vital job.

At the present time 'Milk of Magnesia' is helping to keep the people fit and free from digestive ailments. And in the Peace to follow, 'Milk of Magnesia' will continue its good work of safeguarding health—the true groundwork upon which to build a better Britain.



**'MILK OF MAGNESIA'**

Trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

## UNSPOKEN REPLY

THERE was an old man with a poker,  
Who painted his face with red ochre;  
When they said "You're a guy!"  
He made no reply,  
But knocked them all down with his poker. Edward Lear

## A Gigantic Job

EGYPT'S Great Pyramid was built of 89 million cubic feet of rock blocks.

The sides are in great steps which can be climbed, though not very easily. But at the time of Herodotus, and for long after, these angles were filled with blocks, with sloping sides smoothed and polished so that not even a cat could have found a foothold.

It is said to have taken 100,000 men thirty years to build this pyramid.

## FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Thrush's Anvil. "Have you been ill-treating Snails?" demanded Don sternly of his small sister Ann.

Receiving an indignant denial, Don went on with his inspection of the litter of broken Snailshells, scattered around a large stone at the end of the garden.

"It's a Thrush's anvil, Don," Farmer Gray chuckled, hearing of the mystery. "Keep a sharp look-out and you'll understand my meaning."

Several days later Don saw a Thrush alight at the end of the garden. In its beak was a Snail, which it proceeded to bang against the stone until the shell was broken.

## Out of Sight

A MAN passing Westminster Abbey  
Got into a cab and said: "Cabby,  
Allow me to hide  
For a moment inside;  
My necktie is frightfully shabby."

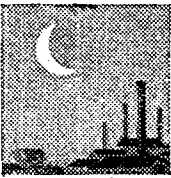
## BEHEADING

I'm natural, hard, on land or beach;  
I'm part of cherry, plum, or peach.  
Cut off my head and, lo, a sound.  
Behead again: a number's found.

Answer next week

## Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-east and Saturn is in the south. In the evening Venus is in the south-west, and Saturn is in the east. The picture shows the Moon, as it may be seen at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 11.



## The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, November 8, to Tuesday, November 14.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Regional Round—teams of children compete in answering questions by Mac. 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.20 Sleeping Beauty, a musical tale based on Grimm's fairy story by Henry Reed, with a Section of the BBC Northern Orchestra. 5.50 From America, folk songs and a guitar.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Hereward the Wake, a serial play based on the book by Charles Kingsley, by Rosalie Williams—Episode 3, A Wake A Wake!

TUESDAY, 5.30 Young Artists.

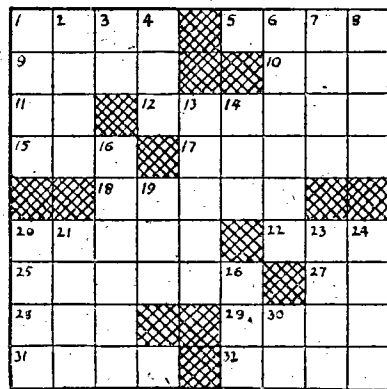
## Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A measure for fresh herrings. 5 Tidings. 9 Solitary. 10 A shoe wiper. 11 Elevated. 12 To move unsteadily. 15 Serpent-like fish. 17 A kingdom. 18 A willow used for making baskets. 20 A merry frolic. 22 Famous for its gardens. 25 Foot levers. 27 To have a real existence. 28 Everyone. 29 Spherical bodies. 31 River of hell, according to the ancients. 32 A snug home.

Reading Down. 1 A guide. 2 A thick cord. 3 Indefinite article. 4 Fresh. 6 To board a ship. 7 A rampart. 8 A stalk. 13 A projecting window. 14 A honey-maker. 16 Haughty. 19 The ocean. 20 Health resorts. 21 To throw missiles. 23 Flows back. 24 Where the Sun sinks. 26 A boy. 30 Royal Engineers (abbrev.).

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, November 11, 1944



## Challenge Your Friends

WHEN you are with several friends challenge them to lift you from the ground.

Most people know that by standing at the back of a person and putting the arms under the armpits, it is not a difficult matter to lift him up. But by a very simple plan you can make it impossible for anyone to lift you.

When your friend gets his

hands and arms in position for lifting, place your right hand under his left hand and push upwards as hard as you can. Unless your friend happens to be very strong he will find it impossible to raise you.

The reason for this is that when you press your right hand upwards you change your centre of gravity and very much more force is then needed to lift you.

# ODEON



## NATIONAL CINEMA CLUB for BOYS & GIRLS

PRESIDENT: J. ARTHUR RANK • VICE-PRESIDENTS: JOHN DAVIS • F. STANLEY BATES



MEETINGS HELD EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT ODEON THEATRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

MEMBERSHIP 150,000

PROGRAMME OF SPECIALLY SELECTED FILMS

ADVENTURE • CARTOON • INTEREST  
COMMUNITY SINGING • CLUB TALKS

APPLY FOR FREE MEMBERSHIP CARD NOW AT YOUR NEAREST ODEON THEATRE